

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01

AID-20 RSR-01 /136 W

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O 101030 Z MAY 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3022

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1393

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LE

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ESCALATES ANTI- GOL RHETORIC

REF: CAIRO 1380; BEIRUT 5247 (NOTAL)

1. MAY 10 CAIRO PRESS HAS SHIFTED TO A MORE STRONGLY
DEFINED ANTI- GOL POSITION. AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA REPORT
ON " MASSACRES" BY LEBANESE ARMY OF MARTYRS OF PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE, AND FOCUS PLAY ON INCREASED VIOLENCE OF
ARMY ATTACKS ON FEDAYEEN MAY 10, DESPITE FACT THAT LATTER
" CONTINUED TO HOLD THEIR FIRE." BOTH PAPERS CONTAIN
SHARP EDITORIALS ATTACKING LEBANESE ARMY. GUMHURIYYA
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DEMANDS THAT GEN. ISKANDER GHANEM BE " PUT IN HIS PLACE,"
AND AKHBAR' S MUSA SABRI CALLS LEBANESE ARMY THE
" EXECUTIONER" OF THE RESISTANCE. (SABRI ALSO STATES
THAT ISRAEL AND US INITIATED THE CRISIS.)

2. AHAM' S MAY 10 HEADLINE, " LEBANESE AIRCRAFT BOMB
RESISTANCE POSITIONS DESPITE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT," SETS
TONE OF MAIN ARTICLE, WHICH PAINTS PICTURE (MUCH OF IT
DRAWN FROM PALESTINIAN REPORTS) OF GOL MILITANCE AND
PALESTINIAN RESTRAINT. AHAM' S EDITORIAL STATES
LEBANESE CLASHES ARE RESULT OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS, NOT ARABS.

3. MAY 10 PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT MAY 9 MEETING OF
EGYPTIAN CABINET ISSUED STATEMENT WHICH SAID (FULL TEXT):
" EGYPT CONDEMNS ATTEMPTS AIMED AT LIQUIDATING THE PALESTIN-
IAN RESISTANCE AND REAFFIRMS ITS POSITION OF FULL
SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE."

4. COMMENT: CABINET STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ISSUED AS
SMALL PART OF LONGER REPORT ON MINISTERIAL DECISIONS,
PARALLELS SOMEWHAT ANODYNE GOE STATEMENT OF MAY 8 WITHOUT
DISTINCT EVOLUTION AWAY FROM MORE MODERATE COVERAGE OF
MAY 9 AND REFLECTS INCREASING PRO- PALESTINIAN BIAS.
WE TEND TO INTERPRET THIS AS BEING THE RESULT OF SEVERAL
FACTORS, INCLUDING SPECIFIC PRESSURES FROM LIBYA AND
OTHERS TO ADOPT A STRONGER STANCE AGAINST GOL, AND
FACT THAT GOE VIEWS IT AS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN ITS
INFLUENCE WITH PALESTINIANS. AT SAME TIME, PARAMOUNT
EGYPTIAN DESIRE IS TO STOP THE FIGHTING. GOE MAY WELL
VIEW GOL' S DECISION TO USE MAXIMUM FIREPOWER (INCLUDING
AIR FORCE) TO SILENCE FEDAYEEN AS BEING ESCALATORY, AND
HAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO PUT A BIT OF FIRE TO GOL' S
FEET IN ATTEMPT TO GET LEBANESE TO EXERT MORE RESTRAINT,
DESPITE PALESTINIAN PROVOCATIONS.

4. REGARDING BEIRUT REFTTEL, AGREE THAT EGYPTIAN STATE-
MENTS MAY PROVIDE SYRIANS WITH GRIST FOR THEIR OWN
PROPAGANDA, BUT BELIEVE THAT SYRIAN DECISION WHETHER
TO INTERVENE OR NOT IN LEBANON WILL BE PREDICATED MORE
ON WHAT EGYPTIAN PRESSURE
COME TO BEAR ON THEM PRIVATELY, THAN ON EGYPTIAN
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PUBLIC POSITION.
GREENE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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